

THE RIO NEWS.

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES:—

79, Rua Sete de Setembro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, FEBRUARY 3rd, 1891.

THE latest news from Chili report various reverses for the revolutionary forces, the government troops reoccupying Coquimbo, Serena and Pisagua. A repulse at Caldera is also reported. As these reports are from Santiago, via Buenos Aires, they can not be relied upon implicitly. The Chilean ironclad *Almirante Condell* left Montevideo for the west coast on the 29th, having been supplied with provisions and coal, it is said, by a commission of Chileans favorable to the revolution. The *Condell* may therefore be expected to join the rest of the fleet in the effort to overthrow Balmaceda. If recent telegrams be true, to the effect that both parties are shooting their prisoners, the struggle will soon reach a stage where no compromise will be possible.

We have now reached the last stages in the adoption of the constitution, and long before this paper reaches our more distant readers Brazil will have a fundamental law, a President will be elected, and the dictatorship will nominally be at an end. The real adjustment of established ideas and institutions to the new form of government has not yet been established, nor do we anticipate that it will be established for some years to come under the administration which the army seems determined to force upon the country. At this time Brazil needs less a government of blind force, than of patient, sympathetic influence. An administration which yields prompt obedience to the laws, which is free from all taint of jobbery and the protection of favorites, and which is capable of instructing and leading the people in the new road chosen, is now the one great necessity for the country, but such an administration can never be expected from the military officer who has thus far exercised so arbitrary and unwise an authority since the revolution.

Continued from January 13th.

THE PAST YEAR.

Among the other acts of the provisional government which have profoundly influenced the course of events since the revolution, are those relating to civil marriage, criminal law, colonization, land registration, and the extension of the paternal system of government adopted by the monarchy in the grant of exclusive privileges and guarantees. The effects of these measures have not always been the same, but adopted during a period of transition they have all exercised an influence more or less disturbing.

The initial measure of the civil marriage reform was taken on January 24th by the issue of a decree providing that the civil ceremony should be obligatory after May 24th, and imposing various restrictions and formalities in the execution of the new law. The necessity of providing for civil marriage had long been recognized, but it must be confessed that the measure really adopted promises to be as great an obstacle to marriage in the future as the priest has been in the past. The ceremony was made unnecessarily complicated, burdensome restrictions were imposed, a new class of officials for this special service was created, tedious formalities and obstructive fees were established, and the real spirit of the reform was lost in the mania for official prerogative and display. The opposition aroused among those attached to the forms and prerogatives of the church finally led to a decree making it obligatory to have the civil ceremony performed first, and it was subsequently sought to engraft this peculiar restriction on the constitution itself. The representatives, however, have very properly declined to concur in this, and the question of precedence will probably be left to individual choice.

Early in the year the provisional government commissioned one of the jurists of this capital to prepare a new criminal code. The work was prepared accordingly, and was presented to the minister of justice in October, by whom it was revised and then promulgated by a decree of November 14th. It introduces a number of important changes into the judiciary system of the country, and also imposes many changes in criminal procedure which should have been adopted only upon careful study by a number of the ablest lawyers of Brazil. One of its first results was to incite a strike among the cart and tram drivers of the city, who were unjustly and harshly held responsible for the accidents occurring in the streets. This strike occurred on December 1st, and lasted two or three days, and led eventually to such a correction of the "code" as to remove some very unjust restrictions on workmen in general.

In the matter of immigration the provisional government has simply amplified some of the worst features of the old practices. By a decree of June 28th the mistaken idea of granting subsidies for immigrants under the name of "assisted passages," was given a new impetus, and the propaganda has since been carried on actively in Europe. The system invariably leads to a sordid speculation, the contractors aiming merely to secure numbers, without the slightest reference to their fitness. In this connection, it should be said, that the decree of compulsory citizenship, which required a registry of non-acceptance before May 31st, was finally changed to permit registry at the consulates and police offices, and the time was then extended to December 31st. Before the close of the year,

however, the question dropped wholly out of sight.

One of the most important acts of the year—and one of the least excusable—was that of the creation of a Torrens' law by a decree of the minister of finance on May 31st. Without any proper system of land surveys, of land registry, or of land distribution, and without effective and clearly-understood legislation upon the settlement of estates and for the trial of civil cases, it was sought to create an elaborate system of land registration and hypothecation in the country. Soon after the promulgation of the decree, a more inexplicable step was taken in the grant of privileges to certain individuals to carry the law into execution as a private enterprise. In one case, at least, the privilege so granted has been sold to a company for a considerable sum, thus encumbering a public service at the very outset with a burden which it should never have borne. The execution of this law promises to be hampered by the numerous grants of public lands since made to colonization and other companies, and by a reservation inserted in the constitution—that the public lands shall be the property of the states in which they are situated. One of the bad results of these acts has been a rapid rise in the prices of lands, which in some states, especially S. Paulo, are much in excess of their real value.

In addition to the organization of land and colonization companies, the peculiar turn given by the acts of the minister of finance, aided perhaps by the releasing of large sums of money by the conversion of the internal loans to a lower rate of interest, gave rise to the organization of an extraordinary number of companies in almost every line of industry. Some of these organizations have unquestionably a good future before them under good management and in prosperous times, but the great majority are mere bubble schemes, created solely for speculative purposes, and for which there is no possible future in Brazil as yet. The development of speculation at this time has been of great prejudice to the organization of the new republic, for it has made the speculator and adventurer the masters of the situation, corrupting the administration and demoralizing the populace. Under the influence of ideas brought to the surface by these adventurers, the volume of currency has been enormously increased, and in consequence exchange has been depressed so low as to largely increase the cost of imported goods, which form the greater part of what is consumed in the country. A corresponding rise in the values of property, of rents, in erect, wages, etc., has led to a large increase in the prices of domestic products, which has also tended to aggravate the situation. A moderate estimate places the increased cost of living in this city at fully 30 per cent.

The definite steps for the organization of the new government began with the presentation of the special commission's project for the new constitution to the provisional government in May. After a minute revision by the cabinet, which involved a considerable number of important changes from the original project, the constitution was published by a decree of June 22nd, and the parts relating to elections and qualifications were pronounced operative at once. The elections for representatives to the Constituent Assembly were held on September 15th, and resulted in the general election of the tickets favored by the government. In most of the states the opposition abstained from voting, while the Catholic party, of which so much was feared, polled a very small number of votes. In accordance with the programme adopted, the Constituent Assembly met in this city, at the reconstructed palace of S. Christovão, on November 15th, and at once proceeded to the task of organization. The message of the provisional government attracted but little attention, as it gave no information on the actual state of public affairs, and was accompanied by no department reports. This formal assumption of irresponsible dictatorial power, although strictly in harmony with the situation, led at once to controversies which have much delayed action, and has led to the creation of a very active and influential opposition. The selection of so able and conservative a man as Senator Prudente de Moraes, of São Paulo, as president of the assembly, has done much to keep these controversies within bounds, but the reckless disregard of the rights and feelings of these popular representatives by the provisional government has kept affairs in

a very strained situation. At the outset a commission was nominated to examine and report upon the constitutional project presented by the government. A few changes of minor importance were suggested, and one or two radically opposed to the wishes of the cabinet. In the discussions which followed, and which were not ended at the close of the year, a great many amendments to the project of the government were offered, and many were ultimately adopted, thus changing it in many important respects. Most noteworthy among these was the adoption of direct popular election for the presidency, and the rejection of the provision legalizing all the acts of the provisional government.

In the states the *status quo* has been maintained throughout the year. No efforts were made toward the organization of state governments, the governors, or representatives of the provisional government, continuing to exercise an absolute and irresponsible authority. In most of these states the policy of granting privileges and exclusive favors has been exercised, while in some of them the practice has developed into a gross abuse, as in the state of Rio de Janeiro, where the obligations incurred on guarantees of interest are several times in excess of the revenue of the state treasury. In many states constitutions have been drawn up under instructions of the governor and then proclaimed by decree after the method followed by the general government. In very few places, however, has there been manifested the slightest desire to assume local responsibilities and organize local government. The thoughts and purposes of the people, even of the great majority of their leaders, still follow the lines and grooves marked out by the monarchy, and whatever may be the name of the political system which they may create, it is more than probable that the spirit and methods of the old government will be maintained.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

January 26.—After some remarks from Deputy Amphilophus, Deputy Garcia Pires made an attack on the retiring ministers whom he accuses of having abandoned their posts. He was answered by Deputy Serelelo who defended the ministers. They are, he says, entirely different from the ministers composing the present cabinet, and Gen. Deodoro, he thinks, must have seen with regret the withdrawal of his revolutionary companions.

January 27.—Deputies João de Silveira and Aristides Lobo discussed subjects suggested by the change of ministry, the latter contending that, since all the members of the government owed their positions to the same origin, the behavior of the majority was not correct in thus withdrawing in consequence of differing in opinion from one of their number. The majority should have remained in office, and the dissenting member should have withdrawn. Deputy José Avelino requested the president to call up the motion relating to the removal of congress from the present building. Speeches were made by Deputies Otizica, Correa Rabello, Carlos Garcia, Costa Machado and Pedro Américo.

January 28.—Deputy Otizica, obtaining the floor on a point of order, attempted to explain his plan for the division of revenue, but was not allowed to proceed. Deputy Alexandre Stockler declared that for two reasons he would not attempt to defend his amendments to the constitution. In the first place, being merely a concentration of republican principles, those amendments required no defense. In the second place, the perspicacity of congress would guide it, much better than anything he could say, in understanding and appreciating the amendments. Deputy Valladao spoke in regard to the part taken by the police force in the revolutionary movement on the 15th of November, 1889. That force, he says, had the honor of being the first body of troops to present arms to Gen. Deodoro on that day. Congress unanimously adopted a resolution, presented by Deputy Dyonisio and signed by 45 members of congress, asking the government to keep the name of Gen. Benjamin Constant in the military almanack so that morally the vacancy in the army, caused by his death, shall be left unfilled. Senator Gil Goulart spoke against the abolition of lotteries, abolition of existing titles, gratuitous marriages, payment of state debts by the general government, collection of 15 per cent. additional duties on imports and disqualification of directors of banks and companies receiving favors from the government, and in favor of the prohibition of gambling. Deputy João Vieira spoke in favor of capital punishment. Deputy Costa Junior gave his reasons for thinking that the revolution should not be attributed exclusively to the army and navy.

January 29.—After speeches from Deputies Augusto de Freitas and Santos Pereira, Senator Almeida Barreto moved to close the debate, but a vote could not be taken for want of a quorum. After some remarks from Deputy Epitacio, Deputy Cesar Zama took the floor and proceeded to discuss some of the provisions of the constitution. He concluded his speech by opposing the election of Gen. Deodoro to the presidency of the republic. When he came to take his seat in congress, he says, he supposed the ministers to be responsible for the misgovernment of the country. Since he has been here, however, he has learned that the ministers are only clerks of the chief of the provisional government, who is principally to blame for all the harm that has been done. Deputy Nascimento eulogized Gen. Deodoro and Admiral Wandenkolk.

January 30.—After some remarks from Deputy Thomaz Delino, Deputy Thomaz Flores took the floor and made a speech in defence of Gen. Deodoro. On motion of Senator Almeida Barreto the debate on the constitution was closed. Congress then adjourned to Monday in order to give time for the classification of the amendments.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—In Amparo, São Paulo, 200 buildings were erected last year.

—A soap and candle factory is to be established in Serro, Minas Geraes.

—Mococa again comes to the front. A man aged 110 died there some days ago.

—In Juiz de Fora, which has 1,897 voters, only 200 votes were cast at the recent election.

—Our Rio Grande exchanges report that Pelotas is still suffering from an epidemic of small-pox.

—In S. Sepé, Rio Grande do Sul, a man who, in existing arrest, killed a police official, was lynched by the people.

—It is stated that in a few days Juiz de Fora will again be lighted with electric light, as the repairs are nearly completed.

—The course of studies at the Culto a Sciencia college in Campinas is divided into three parts—Things, Facts and Theory.

—A plantation near Mococa, S. Paulo has been sold for 710,000\$. Mococa is evidently determined to keep itself before the public.

—It is proposed to convey the Eiffel Tower to S. Paulo and put it up at the Continental Exhibition. The cost is estimated at 2,000,000\$.

—The Campinas, S. Paulo, coachmen threaten to strike on account of the wretched condition of the streets of that city. We applaud the Jarvis.

—The Commercial and Horticultural company of S. Paulo proposes to manufacture fire-works. An explosion should be apprehended by the shareholders.

—The jury of Campinas, S. Paulo, placed on record its sorrow at the death of Benjamin Constant. Very proper indeed, but no one doubted the jury's grief.

—A credit of 9,000\$ has been opened in Rio Grande do Sul for the acquisition of apparatus for a meteorological observatory and instruments for the public works officials.

—A local journal says there was a hall at Cataguazes, Rio de Janeiro, on the 24th ult. when the guests dined until 4 a. m. Cataguazes must be a much colder place than the federal capital, we infer, for the very idea of a hall was dreadful here on that day.

—As Gen. Portella, viceroy of Rio de Janeiro, has no public lands at his disposition, he does as well as he can by granting rights of condonation to holders of monopolies. A soap, candle and safety match manufacturer has obtained these rights.

—That benevolent old gentleman, the Lord of Paranapiacaba, not content with enriching the capital of the republic with numerous companies, has gone to the capital of Rio de Janeiro and established a bakery and macaroni factory there, capital 500,000\$.

—O Brazil, on the 28th ult., extracts from a Minas Geraes journal a curious item. The *Guarda municipal* of Diamantina has ordered that every immigrant leaving the municipality shall be fined 200\$! The foot-killer is badly needed in Diamantina, if this report is true.

—The sub-treasury in Rio Grande do Sul is bankrupt. It is not even able to restore deposits to persons who have made tenders for contracts. In the custom-house the laborers have struck, and refuse to go to work until they have received their arrears of wages. And yet Rio is overflowing with currency!

—The electoral boards in Minas Geraes are said to be counting a much larger vote than was cast at the recent state election. At Uberaba, for instance, only 145 voters went to the polls in the two precincts, and yet in one of these precincts the board counted 187 votes.

—The detachment of soldiers stationed in the town of Bento Gonçalves, Rio Grande do Sul, has been guilty of very disorderly conduct. These soldiers recently made an attack on the immigrants' quarters in that town, killing the daughter of a colonist, a girl 19 years of age.

—On the 27th ult. the *Jornal do Commercio* says the municipal chiefs of Niteroi, the capital of Gen. Portella's dominions of Rio de Janeiro, are examining shopkeepers' weights and measures, for the first time since 1874. It appears that 700 grammes passes for one kilogramme in Portella's kingdom.

—On the 26th ult. a colored woman of Amparo, S. Paulo, saved a man who had thrown himself into the river at that town with the intention of committing suicide. It is said that this is not the first heroic act of Justina, as she is called, and it is very properly suggested that she be granted a humanitarian medal.

—A young Italian, named Nicola Cece, attempted to assassinate druggist Bourral on the 26th ult., in S. Paulo with the evident purpose of robbery. Bourral was dangerously cut on the head with a hatchet, but is still alive, thanks to the skill of his physicians. The assassin was captured in his attempt to escape.

—In Santos on the 26th ult. there was a fight between citizens and a corporal and four privates belonging to the garrison. The soldiers were worsted, and the corporal and one private being wounded, the rest ran away. A force being sent to arrest the fugitives, they resisted, and another was wounded. The wounded were sent to the hospital, and the other two soldiers lodged in jail.

—In Pará a woman was brutally beaten by her son for having refused him 1\$.

—It is stated that in a few days water will be furnished to 1,700 houses in Campinas.

—On the 31st ult. a two-year-old child was run over and killed by a street car in S. Paulo.

—The population of the town of Mogyminim, S. Paulo, is according to the recent census 3,664.

—Civil marriage is at present impossible in Santos, as there are no justices of marriage in that place.

—In a fight between soldiers and civilians in Coary, Amazonas, two of the latter were killed and three wounded.

—Mandós exported last year 3,553,935 kilos of rubber, of which 1,444,042 kilos were shipped to the United States.

—According to the recent census, Juiz de Fora has 14,779 inhabitants. The *Pharos* thinks the real number of inhabitants is much larger.

—It is reported in Pará that the minister of agriculture has been offered 450,000\$ for the government plantations on the island of Marajó.

—São Paulo is rapidly becoming a city of superlative possibilities bounded by wire fencing. The new "villa" suburbs are nearly all composed of wire fences.

—The Treasury has granted the governor of Rio de Janeiro a credit for 1,000\$, to be expended in protective measures against small-pox which has appeared at Petropolis.

—Two men have been arrested in Pará accused of cheating an Italian out of 4,000\$. It is stated that the same men obtained 26,000\$ from three Arabs, to whom they promised a large sum of counterfeit money.

—The *União Liberal*, of Bagé, Rio Grande do Sul, says that on the night of the 16th inst. several persons were arrested by a body of soldiers of the 5th regiment, who robbed them of 500\$ in money, besides other valuables.

—By decree No. 259, of Jan. 8th, the governor of Pará granted to Manoel Ferreira Vasques the right of expropriation for the establishment of a shot tower, and a guarantee of 6 per cent. interest on the capital he may invest therein.

—On the 27th ult. the minister of marine declines to permit the minister of agriculture to appoint a colonel—probably of the national guard—fiscal of subsidized navigation companies in Piahy. A naval officer only is suitable to the position.

—The *Diário da Brazil*, on the 30th ult., states that a *fiscal* in Niteroi threw two poison balls into a garden for the benefit of a couple of dogs, and might have poisoned a child who lives in the house. Is there no punishment for poisoning dogs that are kept within their owner's grounds?

—And what will the states do when we are under a constitutional government? For then the minister of the interior will not be able to grant a credit for curing an epidemic of mumps when a governor wants to please his subjects. Santa Catharina has just received 5,000\$ from the treasury to "doctor" small-pox patients.

—In Rio Grande do Sul the commanders of the 2nd and 5th cavalry, Cols. F. M. Pinheiro de Bittencourt and J. C. P. de Bittencourt, and Capts. Alfredo and Felipe Corrêa da Camara, sons of Visconde de Pelotas, received on the 15th ult. a telegram from the war office ordering them to set out for Rio de Janeiro within 48 hours.

—A private letter received here says that the soldiers at Alegrete, Rio Grande do Sul, recently astonished the population by giving *bras* to the emperor and the monarchy. They had been out on some parole, and when returning their officers left them in charge of the petty officers, whereupon they improved the opportunity to express their feelings in this manner.

—A place called Dures do Campo Formoso (Palms of the Beautiful Prairie) takes the prize as a Christian community. A recently acquitted criminal of attempted homicide gets drunk, knives people, and threatens others with death, and the good people of this place never thought of hanging the blackguard! They all went home, shut their doors, and called upon the saints to protect them.

—The *Diário da Manhã* says that on the 23rd ult. much sensation was caused in Santos by the order calling immediately to Rio the detachment stationed there belonging to the 22nd infantry. Some persons conjectured that the brigadier-generals were about to make another revolution; others believed that the army had divided into two parties, which were struggling for supremacy, and others finally asserted that the Emperor had arrived. The municipal council adds the *Diário*, took the precaution of hoisting the imperial flag on the town hall.

—A telegram from Senator Paes de Carvalho, published in the *Avançada* do Pará of the 10th ult., states that a committee appointed by the Pará and Amazonas congressional delegations called on the minister of finance (Gen. Ruy Barbosa) and asked him to comply with the demands of the custom-house employés in the two states, to make the necessary improvements in the custom-house buildings, and to alter the tariff in conformity with the interests of the said states. The minister displayed much interest in the subject, and promised a satisfactory answer.

—A fatal explosion occurred in the hold of the British S.S. *Chichester* at Santos on the morning of the 30th ult., resulting in the death of the 2nd engineer and in grave injuries to three firemen, and slight injuries to two others. The accident was caused by the thoughtlessness of the engineers, in opening a tank of run to enable the consignees to obtain a sample, struck a match to light the interior. An explosion immediately followed, with the results noted. The three firemen were so gravely burned that they will be horribly disfigured should they recover. The flames were promptly subdued, and the steamer suffered no further loss.

—It surely must be a mistake on the part of the *Gazeta de Notícias*. On the 24th our colleague publishes a decree granting a man a monopoly to *rebuild, beautify and improve the city of Niterói*, capital of the state of Rio de Janeiro. This lucky individual will pay no house taxes for 10 years; will have power to condemn property for new buildings, and the governor of the state obliges himself to use his best offices to secure from the general government free entry for material imported. In return for this scandalous job the man will pay 5,000\$ (1) in cash and 2 per cent. per annum on the net revenue to a charitable institution. The voters of Rio de Janeiro should call Gov. Portella to order without a moment's delay!

RAILROAD NOTES

—No check has as yet been placed upon the destruction of the Tijuca road.

—The definite surveys of the Sapucahy railway line from Botafogo to Angra dos Reis were approved on the 31st ult.

—Campinas merchants complain of the delay in the delivery of goods shipped from Rio and Santos. It frequently takes twelve days to obtain goods from the latter place and twenty-five days from the former.

—The Jardim Botânico tramway of this city is laying a branch line around through Ruas Pedreira da Gloria and Pedreira da Candelaria. The intention is to enable every citizen to step out of his door into a tram-car.

—On the 23rd ult. the laborers at the Santos warehouses of the English railway went back to work. The company consented to raise their wages from 35 to 45 per cent and the salaries of the janitors to 100\$ per month. The laborers returned to their work with shouts of "Hurrah for the laboring classes."

—A Sr. Carneiro Leão applied to the Treasury for the registry (*matricula*) of a railway concession granted him by the governor of Sergipe. The minister of finance replied that it was unnecessary. Whether this means that the governor of Sergipe has a right to grant exemption from import duties, as he has done in the present case, or the contrary, is not very clear.

—On the 1st inst. the prospectus of the "Viação Férrea Sapucahy" company was published. The new enterprise will have a capital of 100,000,000\$ and is apparently formed to absorb the lines forming the present Sapucahy railway company and such others as the General company does not acquire. It would appear that the whole railway system of Brazil will be secured by these two companies.

LOCAL NOTES

—The number of persons who assembled to witness the procession of St. Sebastian was unusually large this year.

—For 10\$ per month and 3 per cent commission on the amount collected, the Companhia Intermediária will agree to "dun" your debtors for you.

—A telegram from Vienna on the 29th ult. announces the appointment of Sr. Hengelmüller as the representative of Austria-Hungary at this court.

—On the 27th ult. the Brazilian plenipotentiary at the Vatican presented his credentials. What in the world is a Brazilian minister to do at the Vatican?

—A trade-mark has been granted to a citizen for trunks, cases of various descriptions, barrels, roofing, tiles, horse-shoes and bottles, made of compressed paper.

—We should like parliamentary government to be established long enough to learn what the new ministers have to say in regard to the attack on the *Tribuna* office.

—An American exchange declares that the bacillus of lock-jaw has been discovered. What we would like to see is the discovery of a remedy for pure "jaw," not lock-jaw.

—The incorporator of the Confeitaria company, which is as yet in *tabula*, guarantees his subscribers a bonus of 50\$ per share. Why not have made it 250\$ for each 200\$ share?

—A telegram from Berlin on the 29th ult. announces that the German minister of interior will soon present a project of law regulating the Brazilian emigration agencies in that city.

—Now that we know who had the honor of first presenting arms to Gen. Deodoro on Nov. 15, 1889, we are anxious to learn to whom appertains the glory of inventing the idea of making generals by acclamation.

—During the 2nd half of the year 1890 the central station of the government telegraph forwarded 56,656 dispatches, of which 7,267 were official and 49,388 private. The receipts of the station were 23,498\$351.

—The S. Sebastião procession referred to in our last issue went of with great *clat* on the 27th ult. The dynamic recruits were lovely and made the nervous editor's life a misery. These bomb-shells will kill some good Catholic yet.

—The *Diário de Notícias* on the 26th ult. says it is proposed to bring the Eiffel tower from Paris and mount it at the S. Paulo exhibition. The Banco da Bolsa will no doubt organize a company, capital 100,000,000\$, for the purpose.

—This is a real hard one for our foreign readers. A place in S. Paulo is known as "Itaquaquecetuba." Whether it is inhabited by people with double-jointed jaws, or not, does not know, but nothing else will serve in the frequent pronunciation of the word.

—On the 24th ult. the engine-drivers of the Central de Brazil line gave the inspector of locomotives a diamond ring. Thereupon the inspector of locomotives gave the drivers champagne. The value of the ring is not furnished, nor is the number of bottles of champagne.

—Will some one tell us what has become of those patriotic subscriptions for paying off the national debt?

—We wonder how Gen. Deodoro likes this new "fun" of calling the late Benjamin Constant the "patriarch of the republic."

—It is astonishing how many people die in Rio of "infirmidade cruel," and yet the disease is not classified in the burial reports.

—A Buenos Aires telegram this morning says that the Chilian revolutionists have captured a steamer carrying arms and supplies to Balmaceda's forces.

—Gen. Ruy Barbosa appears to have abandoned Congress, for his card in the press says he is to be found in his law offices from 12 to 3 p. m. Bravot Cincinnati!

—We regret to say that we have as yet received no answer in our inquiry about the missing funds raised by subscription some years ago to erect monuments to Caxias and Osorio.

—The vigor with which the Oporto revolution was put down the other day shows that Portugal, the mother-country, can still show her enterprising offspring how to manage affairs.

—A journal called the *Rio de Janeiro*, published in Niterói, suspended publication yesterday because of attacks on the life of the editor, of which he says the police is cognizant.

—The minister of agriculture has declined to grant various favors to two citizens who propose to introduce salmon and trout in the waters of Rio de Janeiro, S. Paulo and Minas Geraes.

—Our colleague of the *Correio do Povo* mentions that a company has been formed in New York that proposes to buy Alaska, a territory of the United States. We doubt it; unless Sr. Mayrink is in the ring.

—On the 26th ult. the minister of marine informed a mother that her son would be discharged from the navy upon payment of the expenses incurred, and if she produced another son who is a deserter from the service.

—Only on the 24th of January did the minister of the interior find time to order the payment for December of the stenographers employed in handing down to posterity the speeches at the Constituinte. The boys commenced to think they would never see the currency.

—The latest piece of sentiment is a petition to have the name of Gen. Benjamin Constant retained on the army list so that no one may have a chance to fill his place. It would appear to require a great many precautions to secure a hero's name from oblivion in Brazil.

—It is worthy of record that a telegram was sent to São Paulo from this city on Friday last at 4 p. m., but did not reach the addressee until 8 a. m. the next day. This is not half so good an indication of the progress we are making as the rapidity with which the prices of bubble stocks go up!

—The general, chief of police, has recalled to his civilian subordinates the rule that the noble soldier and *bravo* fireman are not to be confined with the "vulgar herd" in the lock-up when arrested, but sent (in a carriage?) to their respective barracks. There is nothing like a uniform after all; it beats the lion's skin!

—It is now said that congress and the museum will exchange quarters and that the elect will occupy the old buildings so long tenanted by stuffed birds and animals, mummies, pottery and other curios. The subservience of this congress might lead many to suggest the stuffing of the elect and their deposit in the museum just as it is.

—A very significant motion was adopted yesterday by congress to the effect that congress expects that the government will not rest until the authors of the attack on the *Tribuna* are discovered and punished with all the severity of the law. A military officer, Col. Jacques Ouriques, opposed the motion, but it was adopted by a vote of 84 to 64. As the government is trying to protect the criminals, this motion is significant.

—We have the satisfaction of advising our readers that Dr. Wilhelm Naegli, of this city, has received a small phial of Dr. Koch's now famous remedy for consumption, for the use of which he will receive a small number of patients. It is not yet determined how far the remedy can be used in advanced stages of the disease, but for those in the incipient stages it is considered that the injections may be used with the most hopeful results. Dr. Naegli has obtained the lymph through the good offices of a friend in Berlin, and advises us that he has no intention to make a speculation of it as others most unprofessionally have done.

—On the morning of the 29th a couple of boys got into a quarrel and one of them struck the other on the head, causing a slight wound. The injured boy complained to the police, who thereupon instituted a search for the other. Later in the day the poor old mother of the fugitive appeared at the house where her boy lived to inquire after him, and to get some clothes. Learning who she was, the police arrested her and had her clapped into jail for the night, where she had to sleep as best she could in a filthy room with drunken women. For a poor, old woman, respectable and honest, this is an outrage which ought to lead to the prompt and severe punishment of those responsible. In other countries "false imprisonment" entitles the victim to damages, and the least that can be done is to give this poor old woman the benefit of such a repatriation.

—The chief of the strategical commission of Paraná on the 21st ult. asked through the minister of war that the department of agriculture should let him have 100,000\$ on account of the appropriation for public lands and colonization. What has strategy to do with lands and colonists?

—A friend of the late Gen. Benjamin Constant, writing in a daily paper, attributes the general's death to the profound grief and mortification that took possession of him on discovering that the republic he had so much contributed to establish, failed to correspond to the ideal he had cherished.

—One local colleague says the new minister of finance addressed his soothing telegram to Messrs. Rothschild as follows: "Mr. Rothschild," and other says it was addressed "Mrs. Rothschild," and the *Jornal do Commercio* says a cruel Englishman said that it should have been addressed "Mr. Rothschild, Esq."

—On the 19th the minister of war recalled a half dozen officers and surgeons, who have been enjoying vacations in Europe at the taxpayers' expense. It is useless, perhaps, to suggest that the best way to cure these abuses is to stop sending commissions abroad. It is rare that anything useful ever results.

—The police brigade of the capital of the republic has a curious way of insuring punctuality upon its creditors. It appoints a day and hour for paying contractors and fines tardy applicants 5 per cent. of their accounts. It is a new system and should secure that punctuality on the part of creditors which is, we regret to say, far from satisfactory.

—On the 20th the minister of the interior approved a *postura* of the municipal provisional government abolishing market gardens and grass fields within the city limits, except in the Gávea and Engenho Novo parishes. As the "provisionals" are also cutting down trees and destroying the S. Francisco de Paula garden, it is to be inferred that they object to everything green.

—The December immigrant arrivals numbered 19,398, of which 16,015 landed at this port and 3,383 at Santos. Of these, 6,089 were Russians, 5,161 Portuguese, 5,053 Italians, 1,421 Spaniards, 602 Austrians, 442 Germans, and the remainder of diverse nationalities. The third-class departures from the country in the same month numbered 766. The total arrivals for the year is stated to have been 113,953.

—In the matter of Sr. Sebastião Pinho's reported profits on last year's speculations, which some obliging reporter was permitted to put at 27,000,000\$, it has occurred to us that Sr. Pinho's profits on the Bahia lottery were not taken into consideration. When a man can postpone a lottery drawing for months, with a very large sum belonging to the same left in his possession, he ought to be able to make something!

—Through some carelessness a trunk was left in charge of a porter at the D. Pedro II station, the owner leaving without receiving and dispatching it. The porter thereupon turned it over to the police who at once proceeded to see what it contained. To their great surprise it was found to be full of revolvers and cartridges. Of course there was great consternation for a time, but we presume it will be found in time to belong to some harmless dealer.

—A fire broke out in the switch-room of the telephone company of this city on the morning of the 29th ult., and before it was brought under control, completely destroyed all the wire connections and switch-boards of the place, there being 19 of the latter in use. It is supposed that the fire originated through leaving a gas light too near some wires, which being covered with paraffine ignited very easily. The loss will be a serious one to the service, as it can not be resumed until the arrival of new material from the United States.

—With the frankness to be expected from him, Admiral Wandenkolk, late minister of marine, thus refers to the Brazilian navy: "With the exception of the ironclads *Riachuelo* and *Aquidaua*, good war vessels, provided with all improvements, armed with excellent artillery, protected by iron and steel plates, and moved by engines that furnish them with no small speed, and of the cruiser *Amimante Tamandaré*, launched this year (1890) and the completion of which will be accomplished during the coming year, we possess no other ships with the requisites of numerous exigencies of modern naval warfare, nor even for the protection of our river frontiers and the instruction of our navy." The Admiral thinks from 14,000,000\$ to 15,000,000\$ will be necessary to renew the "floating material" of the navy.

—A moderate estimate of the cost of that *inspectorate* of Sr. Gen. Glycerio's to relieve the department of agriculture from bother, may be estimated, per annum, about as follows:

Inspector-general	15,000
4 inspectors of districts	40,000
4 assistant do	19,200
An unknown number of fiscal engineers, say 500, at 7,000\$ per head	3,500,000
do do assistants do	2,375,000
do do	1,375,000
Secretary	4,800
4 amanuenses	9,600
Draughtsman	3,600
Messenger	1,200
Total	4,968,400\$

We purposely omit the military attaché.

—A copy of the *Tribuna*, dated January 10th, appeared on the streets for sale on Sunday. It contains a statement from Sr. Antonio de Medeiros in regard to the attack on that paper November 29th by a party of military officers and soldiers, in which he publishes the letter sent to Gen. Deodoro advising him of the intended attack and the interview in which protection was promised. He also states that the attack was led by Col. Piragibe, the brother-in-law of Gen. Deodoro. He disclaims personal animosity against the chief of the provisional government, but says he has neither the high standing nor capacity to direct the destinies of Brazil.

MARRIED.

TRIPP—LOWNDES.—On the 17th ult., at Christ Church, Rio de Janeiro, by the Rev. H. Masley, M. A., HERBERT ARTHUR, youngest son of the late James Tripp, of London, to FLORA, fifth daughter of the late Henry Bandinel Lowndes, of Rio de Janeiro.

BIRTHS.

On the 8th of December, at Beckville, Beckenham, Kent, the wife of William Hall Moxey, accountant of the São Paulo railway, of a son.

In this city, on December 26th, 1890, the wife of Pierre Avegno, of a son.

Pará, New Orleans, Liverpool and Manchester papers please copy.

FINANCIAL NOTES

—The monthly dues of the members of the free Bourse in S. Paulo have been raised from 5\$ to 10\$.

—The Companhia de Flores Artificiais opened its subscription books in S. Paulo on the 27th ult. Its capital is to be 200,000\$.

—On the 24th ult. the capital of the Payão, Brícola e Borges company, in S. Paulo, was all subscribed in less than two hours.

—On the 24th ult. the Companhia Aguas Mineraes de Stupokoff was formally installed in S. Paulo. The capital of this company is 2,150,000\$.

—The Companhia Caixotaria do Commercio is announced in S. Paulo. It is to manufacture cases for shipping goods. Its capital is to be 100,000\$.

—A local paper says that the Conde de Figueiredo will make an offer for the purchase of the London and Brazilian Bank on his arrival in Europe.

—The subscription books of the Banco de Cauçes were opened in St. Paulo on the 28th ult. The capital is 2,000,000\$, and may be increased to 10,000,000\$.

—The ex-minister of the navy, in the report he prepared shortly before resigning, asks for a special appropriation of from 14,000,000\$ to 15,000,000\$ for building new war vessels.

—A special partnership, capital 200,000\$, of which Sr. Mayrink, the special partner, contributes 197,000\$, has been registered here to deal in dairy produce at Carmo do Rio Claro, Minas Geraes.

—In noticing the departure of Conde de Figueiredo by the *Egypcio* on the 28th ult. the *Gazeta de Notícias* says Sr. de Figueiredo will establish in London the "National Brazilian Bank, Limited."

—The Companhia de Melhoramentos Urbanos e Rurales de S. Paulo is announced in S. Paulo. This company is to have a capital of 10,000,000\$ and will engage in all sorts of transactions in real estate.

—At their wits' ends to know what novelty can be offered the public, the company promoters of St. Paulo now propose to establish a joint-stock school enterprise, including *kindergartens*. Capital 1,000,000\$.

—The Banco do Brazil denies the soft impeachment as to making a loan to Uruguay. We could hardly believe that this institution would make such a blunder, and we are glad to have our impression confirmed.

—An anonymous writer in the *Jornal*, on the 28th ult., states that the funds required by the Construcções Hydraulicas company will be furnished by two syndicates—one in Paris, the other in Montreal, Canada.

—In Juiz de Fora all the shares of the Banco de Crédito Popular have been taken. The capital of this bank is at present 500,000\$, and may be increased to 1,000,000\$. The first installment of 30% must be paid by Feb. 10.

—The governor of Rio de Janeiro has granted a privilege to João Soares Pinto, with sundry favors, for the creation of a 2,000,000\$ stearine candle factory in that state. The concession also covers the manufacture of friction matches.

—We presume that the "Melhoramentos do Ceará" company, capital 10,000,000\$, is formed with the patriotic intention of relieving the Treasury of the only too frequent calls for assistance from that often drouth-stricken state.

—On the 27th ult. Sr. Sebastião Pinho gave reluctant subscribers for shares in the Pecanha and Araxá railway 24 hours to pay their instalments and sign the statutes, under the penalty of no longer being considered subscribers. Perhaps the penalty was not very alarming.

—The Banco da Republica called on the 27th ult. upon the shareholders of the late Banco Nacional to pay up 50\$ per share, and granted them the option of completing their payments up to 150\$ per share, upon realizing which fully paid 200\$ shares will be delivered to them.

—The very first effect of turning the *Gazeta de Notícias* into a joint-stock company has been disastrous. The *Gazeta* company states that gold duties have put up prices of commodities; but is not the *industria nacional* protected and enabled to advance prices also? The *Gazeta* company need not lay all the blame on the duties; a very much larger proportion belongs to that darling scheme of our colleague himself, who demanded 3\$ in paper against 1\$ in gold, and has now secured it!

Steamer shipments for United States (1).....	9,000	"
Shipments for Europe.....	25,000	"

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TABLE OF DEPARTURES,
1891

Date	Steamer	Destination
Feb. 3	Clyde	Montevideo and Buenos Ayres.
" 5	Tagus	Las Palmas, Lisbon, Vigo, Southampton, Rotterdam and London.
" 12	Tamar	Bahia, Pernambuco, Lisbon, Vigo, Southampton and Antwerp.

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